The Bonobo and the Atheist
Morality, Religion and Prosocial Primates

Dr. Frans de Waal
C.H. Candler Professor of Primate Behavior
at Emory University and Member of the National Academy of Sciences

Wednesday 3 April, 6.30pm
White Hall 208
Followed by book signing and reception in White Hall lobby

Frans de Waal studied primatology in the Netherlands and joined Emory University’s Psychology department and Yerkes National Primate Research Center in 1991. His research has shown that animals have many of the features that are generally attributed exclusively to humans, including conflict resolution, cooperation and empathy. De Waal was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 2004, and was named as one of the 100 most influential people by Time Magazine in 2007. He is the author of twelve books for a general audience. In his latest, The Bonobo and the Atheist: In Search of Humanism Among the Primates, De Waal argues that human morality is not imposed from above, but comes from within. Based on his research on primates, De Waal concludes that religion emerged in addition to our natural instincts for empathy and cooperation.

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